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Letter dated 24 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 23 September 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 24 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 23 September 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea

The European Union reaffirms its full support for the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, now arrived at the crucial phase of border demarcation. Expressing concern at delays in the demarcation process, the European Union emphasizes the importance of attaining an expeditious implementation of the boundary commission's decision.

The European Union calls upon the parties to abide by the peace agreements as well as the rulings of the boundary commission and to fully comply with Security Council resolution 1507 (2003) so as to ensure that the border demarcation begins as scheduled and that the necessary conditions are provided for the demarcation to proceed.

The European Union acknowledges that a lasting peace requires a relationship between the parties that enables them to address bilaterally any problems arising between them. It therefore calls on both Governments to normalize their relationship through political dialogue, including confidence-building measures, in order to consolidate the progress made so far and ensure the success of the peace process.

The European Union stresses that the peace process must not be allowed to lose momentum and that only a definitive end to territorial disputes will guarantee stability and the opportunity for a renewed focus on sustainable development and poverty eradication.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.